

PATENT

Attorney Docket No: BRI/016

REMARKS

The June 23, 2005 Office Action rejected all claims as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,224,487 to Simonsen. In response, the present amendment amends claims 1, 6, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 22, cancels claims 3, 5, 13, and 14, and adds new claims 23-26. Independent claims 1, 20, and 21 are each amended to include new limitations that, it is respectfully submitted, are not taught by or obvious from Simonsen alone or in view of the other known prior art.

Specifically, independent claim 1 adds the limitations that the circuit breaker includes a "housing formed of polymer," "a projectile molded into [the] housing, between said pyrotechnic igniter and said electrically conductive portion," and that the "electrically conductive portion is formed to be readily cut by [the] projectile." These features provide reduced complexity, easier assembly and enhanced reliability, and are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 20 adds the limitations that the circuit breaker's "fuse [is] an integral single piece ... having a uniform thickness." These features also provide reduced complexity, easier assembly and enhanced reliability, and are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record.

Finally, independent claim 21 adds the limitations that the circuit breaker's electrically conductive portion is "formed to receive a direct ablation force," and has an "impact area [that] is flattened and/or enlarged in a plane

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generally perpendicular to the output of said pyrotechnic igniter," and that the rupture area has a "perimeter [that] is selected to leave a minimal clearance between [the] rupture area and [the] periphery" of the electrically conductive portion. This solution is also novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record, and, as a result of its corresponding pyrotechnic output force-focusing effects, permits the complete elimination of the internal moving projectile, cutter or the like.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the presently amended application be allowed.

A one-month extension of time to respond is hereby requested, and Form PTO-2038 for the corresponding \$120.00 fee is attached hereto.

The Examiner is kindly invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 20, 2005

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